

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 04103 171758Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 DODE-00
/095 W

-----047962 180530Z /14

R 171709Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4252
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R R T MADRID 04103

CINCEUR POR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, SS, MO
SUBJECT: SAHARA: POLISSRIO OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO

REF: ALGIERS 1172

1. WE RAISED THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF A POLISARIO
BASE IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO WITH TWO KNOWLEDGEABLE MFA
OFFICIALS (LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA, DIRGEN FOR AFRICA AND
CONTINENTAL ASIA, AND CAJAL, HIS DEPUTY FOR NORTH AFRICA
AND THE MIDDLE EAST), NOTING ONLY THAT WE HAD HEARD IT
ASSERTED THERE WAS ONE. BOTH OFFICIALS SAID THE POLISARIO
CERTAINLY OPERATES IN THE AREA, WITH LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA
ADDING THAT THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA SOUTH-WEST OF GOULIMINE
WAS NOT ONLY OF DIFFICULT ACCESS BUT WAS POPULATED
LARGELY BY ETHNIC SAHRAWIS. CAJAL DOUBTED THERE WAS AN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MADRID 04103 171758Z

ACTUAL BASE THERE, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT RAN SERIOUS
RISK OF DISCOVERY AND ELIMINATION.

2. BOTH OFFICIALS SAID THE POLISARIO INDEED PROVISIONED
ITSELF FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS, PROBABLY NOT WITH ARMS
BUT WITH GASOLINE, FOOD, ETC., DRAWING ON THE CANARY
FISHING FLEET AND ON THE PRESENCE IN THOSE ISLANDS OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRO-POLISARIO SPANISH ORGANIZATION "FRIENDS OF THE SAHARA". WITH THE CHANGED ATMOSPHERE IN THE CANARIES SINCE THE OAU MEETING IN TRIPOLI, HOWEVER, THEY THOUGHT SUCH ACTIVITIES HAD PROBABLY DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY.

3. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE POLISARIO WAS DOING AND HOW SUCCESSFULLY, CAJAL SAID ITS ACTIVITIES APPEARED TO HAVE DIMINISHED IN RECENT MONTHS, AND HAD ALSO SHOWN A SHIFT AWAY FROM THE AREA INVOLVING MAURITANIA AND TOWARD THAT OF MOROCCO. FOLLOWING THE SERIOUS REVERSES IT SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT OBSERVATION WORK, SAID CAJAL, THE POLISARIO WAS PROBABLY STILL IN A PHASE OF ANALYSIS AND SELF-CRITICISM. WHERE IT MIGHT COME OUT AS A RESULT OF THAT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FORESEE, HE ADDED. STABLER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PHOTOGRAPHS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID04103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-0363
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780450/aaaabpxx.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9b8312ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 ALGIERS 1172
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2948221
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA: POLISSRIO OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO
TAGS: MOPS, SS, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b8312ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014